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In the Claims:

1) (Currently amended) A system for detecting a watermark in host data which includes:
a watermark detection mechanism which utilizes knowledge of [the] characteristics of a watermark to detect ~~[the present]~~ presence of a watermark, and
a filter which removes aspects of the host data that are not carrying a watermark [data] signal, thereby enhancing the signal to noise ratios of the watermark signal.

2) (Original) The system recited in claim 1 where the host data is image data.

3) (Original) The system recited in claim 1 where the host data is audio data.

4) (Original) The system recited in claim 1 where the host data is video data.

5) (Currently amended) ~~[The]~~ A method of extracting digital watermark data from host data which includes,

receiving said host data as input to a watermark detection operation to detect a watermark signal embedded in said host data; and

pre-filtering said host data prior to the watermark detection operation thereby enhancing the signal to noise ratios of the watermark signal.

6) (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 5 wherein said pre-filtering ~~[consists of]~~ comprises first applying a highpass operator to said host data and then applying a nonlinear operator to said data.

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- 7) (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is image data.
- 8) (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is audio data.
- 9) (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is video data.
- 10) (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said highpass operator is a Laplacian operator.
- 11) (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said nonlinear operator is a Signum operator.
- 12) (Original) The method of detecting a watermark signal in host data which includes, first filtering said host data using a high pass Laplacian filter, applying a nonlinear signum function to the output of said high pass filter, and then detecting the presence of a watermark signal in said filtered data.
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